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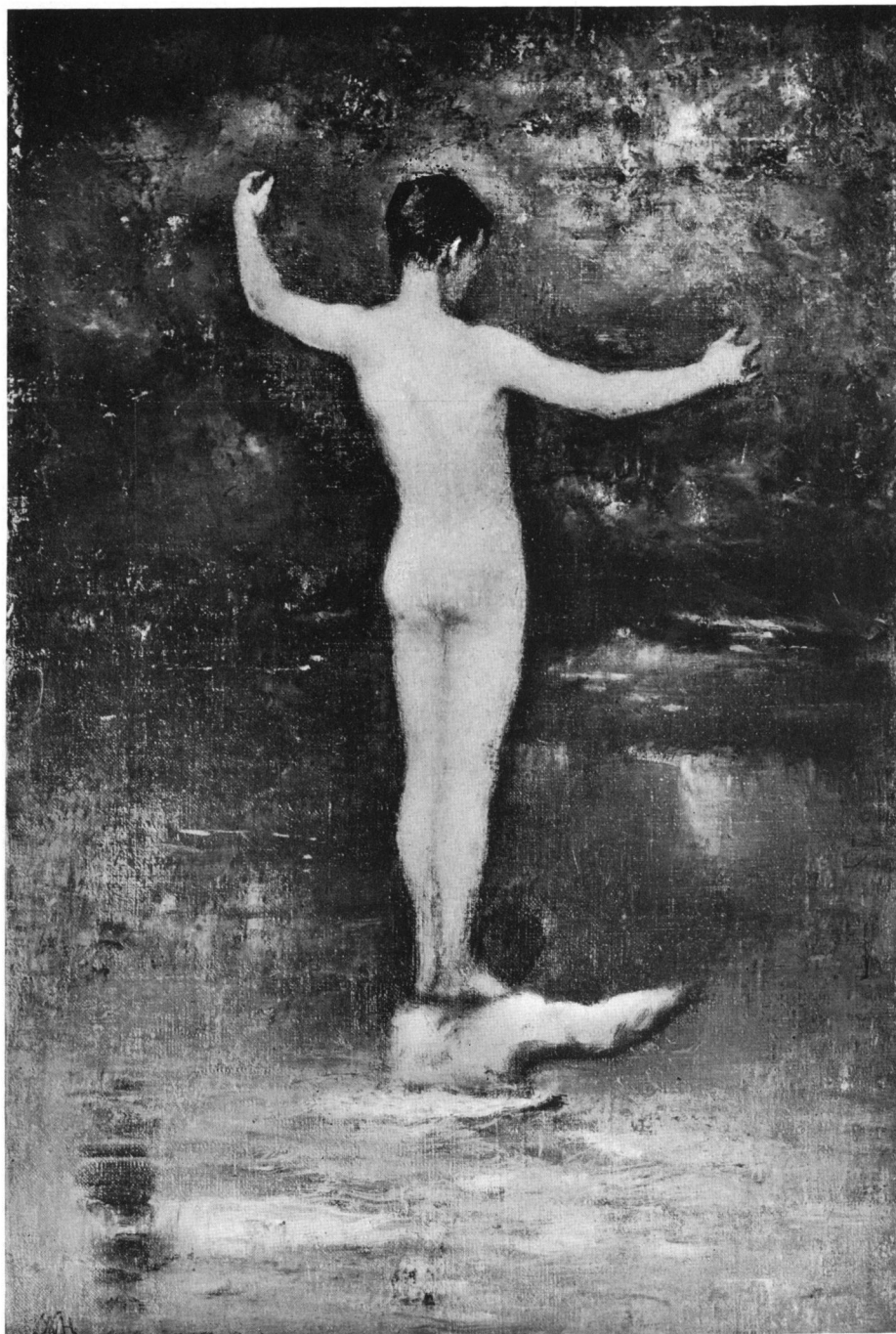
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"THE BATHERS," by William Morris Hunt, is considered one of the most important acquisitions yet made by the Worcester Art Museum. It is a small canvas and is popularly known as the "Fairfield Hunt" in contradistinction to a larger replica. Mr. Hunt came upon this scene unexpectedly when driving, and was so impressed by it that he hastened home and painted it. The picture which the Worcester Art Museum has lately acquired, and of which the frontispiece is a reproduction, is undoubtedly this painting. It has the freshness of a sketch, and the virility of strong conviction. "Because of its almost spiritual hymn to physical beauty, its union of what is characteristic with what is proportioned, wholesome and lovely, and its superb fixing of vital movement in one quiet instant of static art, "The Bathers," a well-known connoisseur has said, "is one of the three or four paintings of the nude in the nineteenth century which a Greek would have understood and admired." William Morris Hunt was born in 1824, and studied under Couture in Paris. He returned to America with enthusiasm and a determination to help upbuild art in this country, and did exert a powerful influence upon the younger painters and students with whom he came in contact.



THE BATHERS

WILLIAM MORRIS HUNT

THE WORCESTER ART MUSEUM